

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the first paragraph of page 3 of the specification, corresponding to paragraph [0011] of the published application, as follows:

The balloon portion of reduced expandability can be obtained through a suitable stiffening of the balloon material in said section; to this end use can e.g. be made in the balloon material of integrated stiffenings or also of stiffenings applied to the balloon material in said portion, e.g. a stiffening ring preferably adhesively attached thereto. An example of such construction is depicted in FIG. 4, illustrating portions of balloon 15 and of stent 16. A stiffening 17 is coupled to balloon 15 that prevents the full radial expansion of balloon 15 and that causes stent 16 to assume a throttle configuration in its central portion. As shown, stiffening 17 is not part of stent 16, that is, is independent of stent 17.

Please add the following new paragraph between the sixth and seventh paragraph of the specification, corresponding to paragraphs [0016] and [0017] of the published application:

FIG. 4 is a schematic view of the throttle portions of the stent and of the balloon after expansion of the balloon.